

APR 24 1997

April 22, 1997

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Proposed ERPP Peer Review Process


Dear Lester:

At the March 25, 1997 BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group meeting, CALFED staff distributed a draft proposal for a Facilitated Scientific Review and Joint Fact Finding process for the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP). In response to this proposal, representatives of the ag, urban, and environmental communities offer the following joint comments. It should be noted that the following comments relate specifically to review of the ERPP. They are not intended to address the need for a process to review technical issues related to the 1997 AFRP proposals, as has been recommended by ag/urban interests. However, in so far as the ERPP overlaps with the AFRP (particularly with regard to the technical basis for proposed actions), we believe the AFRP will benefit from the ERPP effort.


1. We fully support development of a peer review process for the ERPP. We believe such a review is important and could help in clarifying a number of key technical issues.
2. We are committed to engaging in this process to ensure that sound science is used in developing the ERPP.
3. We believe it is crucial that the process address general and specific technical questions
4. We believe it is extremely important that the process provide opportunity for stakeholders to interact, share information, and discuss technical issues in an open, but focused process. While the objective opinion of outside experts is essential, acceptance by the interested parties will require their active participation.
5. We believe there are four key issues that need further definition: (1) who will provide the review; (2) how will the reviewers interact (with each other and with stakeholders); (3) what is the expected outcome; and (4) what are the specific technical questions to be addressed. Our specific recommendations regarding each of these four issues are attached.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and look forward to working with CALFED staff and the BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group to further define the proposed program, including development of a list of potential reviewers and a list of technical questions.

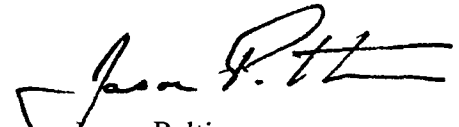
Sincerely,



Byron M. Buck
CUWA



Gary Bobker
The Bay Institute



Jason Peltier
CVPWA